

(iv) To encourage the conversion of in-use vehicles to use cleaner fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG), the Government has converted a large number of its vehicles to CNG. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas plans to expand the supply of CNG by the setting up of additional on-line stations along the HBJ pipe-line.

(v) Low-sulphur diesel is being supplied at all outlets of Delhi since 1.4.1996.

(vi) The number of outlets supplying unleaded petrol within city limits was expanded from 80 to 197 as on 1.4.1996 and from 8 to 124 on highways as on 1.11.1996. The number of outlets is expected to be increased during the current year to 222 within the city limits and to 145 on the highways.

(vii) Free pollution check camps were continued to be organised by the Transport Department, Government of Delhi and by the automobile manufacturers.

[English]

Rainfall in Gujarat

4766. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 90-percent of the crops have perished and livestock have to be shifted in Gujarat particularly in the Kutch district due to very low level of rainfall during the current year;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the details regarding rainfall and droughts in the State during the said period;

(c) the details regarding amount of financial assistance allocated and actually released so far from Calamity Relief Fund for this purpose;

(d) whether any detailed report has been received by the Central Government from the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Gujarat, out of 896 villages of 9 Talukas in Kutch district, the State Government have declared scarcity in 687 villages and semi-scarcity in 208 villages, due to deficient rainfall to the extent of 57% during the South-West Monsoon, 1996.

(c) to (e) A Memorandum was received from the

Government of Gujarat detailing the extent of drought situation in various districts and the proposed relief measures. Government of India have already released to the State Government Rs. 104.70 crores as their share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during 1996-97 and Rs. 18.41 crores for the CRF for 1997-98 to enable the State Government to undertake necessary relief measures.

Sugarcane Shortage

4767. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills are hit by cane shortage during 1996-97 sugar season;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) the loss of sugar production in the country as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :

(a) and (b) So far no State Government has reported shortage in availability of sugarcane to the sugar mills during the current 1996-97 sugar season. However, as per the available information as on 31st March, 1997, 321 sugar mills were in operation during 1996-97 season as against 395 and 313 on the corresponding dates of 1995-96 and 1994-95 sugar seasons respectively.

(c) and (d) The production of sugar during the current 1996-97 sugar season as on 31st March, 1997 was 106.05 lakh tonnes as against 117.27 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year. The Government have taken steps to increase sugar production such as increase in minimum sugarcane price, grant of loans from Sugar Development Fund for cane development etc.

[Translation]

World Wild Animals Day

4768. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Wild Animals Day was observed during October, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the programme organised on the said occasion;

(c) whether on that day any message was given regarding protection of wild animals; and